

CLAIMS

1. A method (300) for performing digital recording and playback, comprising steps of:

5 enabling a user to record digital signals onto a digital storage medium;
receiving a password from said user (325, 330);

storing said password in at least one unreserved data field on said digital storage medium, wherein said at least one unreserved data field is included in a first presentation sequence for said recorded digital signals (335); and

10 requiring said password to be input before playing back said recorded digital signals.

2. The method (300) of claim 1, wherein said digital storage medium is a DVD.

15 3. The method (300) of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing menu data representing a password menu screen on said digital storage medium (340).

20 4. The method (300) of claim 3, wherein said menu data is stored in a second presentation sequence different from said first presentation sequence.

5. The method (300) of claim 4, wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different program chains.

25 6. The method (300) of claim 3, further comprising the step of storing at least one command on said digital storage medium that enables display of said password menu screen (345).

30 7. The method (300) of claim 6, wherein said password menu screen is displayed responsive to a user's attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.

8. A digital recording and playback apparatus (100), comprising:
interface means (70) for interfacing said digital recording and playback
apparatus (100) with a digital storage medium (120); and

5 control means (40) for enabling a user to record digital signals onto said
digital storage medium (120), receiving a password from said user, and causing
said password to be stored in at least one unreserved data field on said digital
storage medium (120), wherein said at least one unreserved data field is included
in a first presentation sequence for said recorded digital signals.

10 9. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 8,
wherein said digital storage medium (120) is a DVD.

15 10. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 8,
wherein said control means (40) further causes menu data representing a
password menu screen to be stored on said digital storage medium (120).

20 11. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 10,
wherein said menu data is stored in a second presentation sequence different
from said first presentation sequence.

25 12. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 11,
wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different
program chains.

30 13. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 10,
wherein said control means (40) further causes at least one command that
enables display of said password menu screen to be stored on said digital
storage medium (120).

14. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 13, wherein said control means (40) enables display of said password menu screen responsive to a user's attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.

5 15. The digital recording and playback apparatus (100) of claim 14, wherein said control means (40) further requires said password to be input responsive to said password menu screen before playing back said recorded digital signals.

10 16. A digital storage medium (120), comprising:
a plurality of reserved data fields; and
a plurality of unreserved data fields and a first presentation sequence for digital signals recorded by a user; and
wherein at least one of said unreserved data fields is stored a user-
15 assigned password for said recorded digital signals, said first presentation sequence includes said at least one of said unreserved data field, and input of said user-assigned password is required before playing back said recorded digital signals.

20 17. The digital storage medium (120) of claim 16, wherein said digital storage medium (120) is a DVD.

18. The digital storage medium (120) of claim 16, further comprising a
second presentation sequence for a password menu screen.

25 19. The digital storage medium (120) of claim 18, wherein said first and second presentation sequences represent different program chains.

30 20. The digital storage medium (120) of claim 18, wherein said password menu screen prompts input of said password and is displayed responsive to an attempt to playback said recorded digital signals.